l: Krasheninnikov N-5 (1736-40) 1764 Kamchadal

are taken away. This can only be done by ſome ſtranger's firſt lying with her for once; but as this taking off of ſin is looked upon by the *Kamtſchadales* as very diſhonourable for the man, it was formerly difficult to find one to undertake it; ſo that the poor widows were at a great loſs before our Coſſacks came amongſt them; ſince which they have been in no want of ſtrangers to take away their ſins. Marriage is forbidden only between father and daughter, mother and ſon; a ſon-in-law may marry his mother-in-law, and a father-in-law his daughter-in-law; and firſt couſins marry frequently. Their divorce is very eaſy, conſiſting only in a man's ſeparating beds from his wife: in ſuch caſes the man immediately marries another wife, and the woman accepts of another huſband, without any further ceremony.

A *Kamtſchadale* hath two or three wives, with whom he lies by turns. Sometimes he keeps them all in one hut, and ſometimes they live in different huts. With every maid that he marries he is obliged to go through the above-mentioned ceremonies. Though theſe people are fond of women, yet they are not ſo jealous as the *Koreki*. In their marriages they do not ſeem to regard the marks of virginity. Nor are the women more jealous; for two or three wives live with one huſband in all harmony: even though he alſo keeps ſeveral concubines. When the women go out they cover their faces with a ſort of veil; and if they meet any man upon the road, and cannot go out of the way, they turn their backs to him, and ſtand 'till he is paſſed. In their huts they ſit behind a mat or a curtain made of nettles; but if they have no curtain, and a ſtranger comes into the hut, they turn their face to the wall, and continue their work. This is to be underſtood of thoſe that retain their ancient barbarity; for ſeveral of them now begin to be civilized to a certain degree, though all of them ſtill preſerve a rude harſhneſs in their manner of ſpeaking.

CHAP

7:Lesseps T-3 (1787-88)1790 Kamchadal

692 merce, and their deciſions are either con-
671 firmed or annulled by the court to which
428 they are carried by appeal. The Ruſſian
R code of laws is the only one that is attend-
177 ed to; it is too well known to require that
.67 I ſhould enter into particulars; and I could only repeat what has been already related by various hiſtorians and travellers better informed upon the ſubject than myſelf.

I ought however to add, that the property of the Kamtſchadales devolves, of courſe, upon their deceaſe, to the next heir, or to whomſoever it is bequeathed. The will of the teſtator is equally reſpected, and as literally adhered to, as it could be with thoſe nations of Europe who are moſt ſcrupulous on the ſubject of ſucceſſions.

586 Divorces are neither practiſed or allowed
R among the Kamtſchadales. The Ruſſians
177 ſeem to court their alliance, though it pro-
.58 cures

7:Lesseps T-3 (1787-88)1790 Kamchadal

586 R 177 .58 cures them no particular priviledge. Their motive is obvious. By frequent marriages, it is poſſible that before the end of the preſent generation, the race of the indigenes may be totally extinct.

681 R 177 .68 The penalty of death, aboliſhed in all the dominions of the empreſs, is never inflicted in Kamtſchatka. In their earlieſt migrations, the Ruſſians, when accuſed of haraſſing the natives, were condemned to the knowt; the Kamtſchadales alſo, for various offences, were liable to this cruel puniſhment; but it is no longer practiced. When the natives are guilty either of petty or capital offences, the puniſhment is whipping. It may be queſtioned whether they have gained by the change. The preſent mode of puniſhing them being more ſimple and expeditious, it is reſorted to with leſs ſcruple, and is liable to frequent abuſe.